

§ 556.64 How to file transfers.

This section explains how to file instruments with BOEM that create and/or transfer interests in OCS oil and gas or sulphur leases.

(a) You must submit to the Regional Director for approval all instruments that create or transfer ownership of a lease interest.

(1) You must submit two copies of the instruments that create or transfer an interest. Each instrument that creates or transfers an interest must describe by officially designated subdivision the interest you propose to create or transfer.

(2) You must submit your proposal to create or transfer an interest, or create or transfer separate operating rights, subleases, and record title interests within 90 days of the last date that a party executes the transfer agreement.

(3) The transferee must meet the citizenship and other qualification criteria specified in § 556.35 of this part. When you submit an instrument to create or transfer an interest as an association, you must include a statement signed by the transferee about the transferee's citizenship and qualifications to own a lease.

(4) Your instrument to create or transfer an interest must contain all of the terms and conditions to which you and the other parties agree.

(5) You do not gain a release of any nonmonetary obligation under your lease or the regulations in this chapter by creating a sublease or transferring operating rights.

(6) You do not gain a release from any accrued obligation under your lease or the regulations in this chapter by assigning your record title interest in the lease.

(7) You may create or transfer carried working interests, overriding royalty interests, or payments out of production without obtaining the Regional Director's approval. However, you must file instruments creating or transferring carried working interests, overriding royalty interests, or payments out of production with the Regional Director for record purposes.

(8) You must pay electronically through Pay.gov at: <https://www.pay.gov/paygov/> the service fee listed in § 556.63 of this subpart and you

must include a copy of the *Pay.gov* confirmation receipt page with your application for approval of any instrument of transfer you are required to file (Record Title and/or Operating Rights (Transfer) Fee). Where multiple transfers of interest are included in a single instrument, a separate fee applies to each individual transfer of interest. For any document you are not required to file by these regulations but which you submit for record purposes, you must also pay electronically through *Pay.gov* the service fee listed in § 556.63 (Non-required Document Filing Fee) per lease affected, and you must include a copy of the Pay.gov confirmation receipt page with your document. Such documents may be rejected at the discretion of the authorized officer.

(b) An attorney in fact, in behalf of the holder of a lease, operating rights or sublease, shall furnish evidence of authority to execute the assignment or application for approval and the statement required by § 556.46 of this part.

(c) When you request approval for an assignment that assigns all your record title interest in a lease or that creates a segregated lease, your assignee must furnish a bond in the amount prescribed in §§ 556.52 and 556.53 of this part.

(d) When you request approval for an assignment that assigns less than all the record title of a lease and that does not create a separate lease, the assignee may, with the surety's consent, become a joint principal on the surety instrument that guarantees compliance with all the terms and conditions of the lease.

(e) An heir or devisee of a deceased holder of a lease, or any interest therein, shall be recognized as the lawful successor to such lease or interest, if evidence of status as an heir or devisee is furnished in the form of:

(1) A certified copy of an appropriate order or decree of the court having jurisdiction of the distribution of the estate or,

(2) If no court action is necessary, the statements of two disinterested parties having knowledge of the facts or a certified copy of the will.

(f) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section, the heirs or devisees shall file statements that

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they are the persons named as successors to the estate with evidence of their qualifications as provided in § 556.46 of this part.

(g) In the event an heir or devisee is unable to qualify to hold the lease or interest, the heir or devisee shall be recognized as the lawful successor of the deceased and be entitled to hold the lease for a period of not to exceed 2 years from the date of death of the predecessor in interest.

(h) Your heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns are bound to comply with each obligation under any lease and under the regulations in this chapter.

(1) You are jointly and severally liable for the performance of each non-monetary obligation under the lease and under the regulations in this chapter with each prior lessee and with each operating rights owner holding an interest at the time the obligation accrued, unless this chapter provides otherwise.

(2) Sublessees and operating rights owners are jointly and severally liable for the performance of each nonmonetary obligation under the lease and under the regulations in this chapter to the extent that:

(i) The obligation relates to the area embraced by the sublease;

(ii) Those owners held their respective interest at the time the obligation accrued; and

(iii) This chapter does not provide otherwise.

(i) Where the proposed assignment or transfer is by a person who, at the time of acquisition of an interest in the lease, was on the List of Restricted Joint Bidders, and that assignment or transfer is of less than the entire interest of the assignor or transferor, to a person or persons on the same List of Restricted Joint Bidders, the assignor or transferor shall file a copy, prior to approval of the assignment, of all agreements applicable to the acquisition of that lease or a fractional interest.

§ 556.65 Attorney General review.

Prior to the approval of an assignment or transfer, the Secretary shall consult with and give due consideration to the views of the Attorney Gen-

eral. The Secretary may act on an assignment or transfer if the Attorney General has not responded to the request for consultation within 30 days of said request.

§ 556.67 Separate filings for assignments.

A separate instrument of assignment shall be filed for each lease. When transfers to the same person, association or corporation, involving more than one lease are filed at the same time for approval, one request for approval and one showing as to the qualifications of the assignee shall be sufficient.

§ 556.68 Effect of assignment of a particular tract.

(a) When an assignment is made of all the record title to a portion of the acreage in a lease, the assigned and retained portions become segregated into separate and distinct leases. In such a case, the assignee becomes a lessee of the Government as to the segregated tract that is the subject of assignment, and is bound by the terms of the lease as though the lease had been obtained from the United States in the assignee's own name, and the assignment, after its approval, shall be the basis of a new record. Royalty, minimum royalty and rental provisions of the original lease shall apply separately to each segregated portion.

(b) For assignments of a portion of an oil and gas lease approved after the effective date of this section, each segregated lease shall continue in full force and effect for the primary term of the original lease and so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced from that segregated portion of the leased area in paying quantities or drilling or well reworking operations as approved by the Secretary are conducted.

(c) For those assignments approved prior to the effective date of this section, each segregated lease shall continue in full force and effect for the primary term of the original lease and so long thereafter as oil and gas may be produced from the original leased area in paying quantities or drilling or well reworking operations, as approved by the Secretary, are conducted.